



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

***Raised Bill No. 5697***

LCO No. 2277

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING POLITICAL COMMITTEES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-333a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2003, and*  
3 *applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said date*):

4 As used in this chapter:

5 (1) "Committee" means a party committee, political committee or a  
6 candidate committee organized, as the case may be, for a single  
7 primary, election or referendum, or for ongoing political activities, to  
8 aid or promote the success or defeat of any political party, any one or  
9 more candidates for public office or the position of convention  
10 delegate or town committee member or any referendum question.

11 (2) "Party committee" means a state central committee, [or] a town  
12 committee or a legislative caucus committee. "Party committee" does  
13 not mean a party-affiliated or district, ward or borough committee  
14 which receives all of its funds from the state central committee of its

15 party or from a single town committee with the same party affiliation.  
16 Any such committee so funded shall be construed to be a part of its  
17 state central or town committee for purposes of this chapter.

18 (3) "Legislative caucus committee" means a single committee  
19 designated by the majority of the members of a political party who are  
20 also state representatives or state senators, which designation is  
21 certified by the chairperson of the committee on the registration filed  
22 with the Secretary of the State.

23 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) "Political committee" means (A) a committee organized by a  
24 business entity or organization, (B) persons other than individuals, or  
25 two or more individuals organized or acting jointly conducting their  
26 activities in or outside the state, (C) a committee established by a  
27 candidate to determine the particular public office to which [he] the  
28 candidate shall seek nomination or election, and referred to in this  
29 chapter as an exploratory committee, or (D) a committee established by  
30 or on behalf of a slate of candidates in a primary for the position of  
31 convention delegate, but does not mean a candidate committee or a  
32 party committee.

33 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) "Candidate committee" means any committee designated by  
34 a single candidate, or established with the consent, authorization or  
35 cooperation of a candidate, for the purpose of a single primary or  
36 election and to aid or promote [his] the candidate's candidacy alone for  
37 a particular public office or the position of town committee member,  
38 but does not mean a political committee or a party committee.

39 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) "National committee" means the organization which  
40 according to the bylaws of a political party is responsible for the day-  
41 to-day operation of the party at the national level.

42 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) "Organization" means all labor organizations, (A) as defined  
43 in the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, as  
44 from time to time amended, or (B) as defined in subdivision (9) of  
45 section 31-101, employee organizations as defined in subsection (d) of

46 section 5-270, as amended, and subdivision (6) of section 7-467,  
47 bargaining representative organizations for teachers, any local, state or  
48 national organization, to which a labor organization pays membership  
49 or per capita fees, based upon its affiliation or membership, and trade  
50 or professional associations which receive their funds exclusively from  
51 membership dues, whether organized in or outside of this state, but  
52 does not mean a candidate committee, party committee or a political  
53 committee.

54 [(7)] (8) "Business entity" means the following, whether organized in  
55 or outside of this state: Stock corporations, banks, insurance  
56 companies, business associations, bankers associations, insurance  
57 associations, trade or professional associations which receive funds  
58 from membership dues and other sources, partnerships, joint ventures,  
59 private foundations, as defined in Section 509 of the Internal Revenue  
60 Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code  
61 of the United States, as from time to time amended; trusts or estates;  
62 corporations organized under sections 38a-175 to 38a-192, inclusive, as  
63 amended, 38a-199 to 38a-209, inclusive, and 38a-214 to 38a-225,  
64 inclusive, and chapters 594 to 597, inclusive; cooperatives, and any  
65 other association, organization or entity which is engaged in the  
66 operation of a business or profit-making activity; but does not include  
67 professional service corporations organized under chapter 594a and  
68 owned by a single individual, nonstock corporations which are not  
69 engaged in business or profit-making activity, organizations, as  
70 defined in subdivision (6) of this section, candidate committees, party  
71 committees and political committees as defined in this section. For  
72 purposes of this chapter, corporations which are component members  
73 of a controlled group of corporations, as those terms are defined in  
74 Section 1563 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent  
75 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time  
76 to time amended, shall be deemed to be one corporation.

77 [(8)] (9) "Individual" means a human being, a sole proprietorship, or  
78 a professional service corporation organized under chapter 594a and

79 owned by a single human being.

80 [(9)] (10) "Person" means an individual, committee, firm,  
81 partnership, organization, association, syndicate, company trust,  
82 corporation, limited liability company or any other legal entity of any  
83 kind but does not mean the state or any political or administrative  
84 subdivision of the state.

85 [(10)] (11) "Candidate" means an individual who seeks nomination  
86 for election or election to public office whether or not such individual  
87 is elected, and for the purposes of this chapter an individual shall be  
88 deemed to seek nomination for election or election if [he] the  
89 individual has (A) been endorsed by a party or become eligible for a  
90 position on the ballot at an election or primary, or (B) solicited or  
91 received contributions or made expenditures or [given his consent]  
92 consented to any other person to solicit or receive contributions or  
93 make expenditures with the intent to bring about [his] the individual's  
94 nomination for election or election to any such office. "Candidate" also  
95 means a slate of candidates which is to appear on the ballot in a  
96 primary for the position of convention delegate. For the purposes of  
97 sections 9-333 to 9-333l, inclusive, and section 9-333w, "candidate" also  
98 means an individual who is a candidate in a primary for town  
99 committee members.

100 [(11)] (12) "Campaign treasurer" means the individual appointed by  
101 a candidate or by the chairman of a party committee or a political  
102 committee to receive and disburse funds on behalf of the candidate or  
103 committee.

104 [(12)] (13) "Deputy campaign treasurer" means the individual  
105 appointed by the candidate or by the chairman of a committee to serve  
106 in the capacity of the campaign treasurer if the campaign treasurer is  
107 unable to perform [his] the duties of the treasurer.

108 [(13)] (14) "Solicitor" means an individual appointed by a campaign  
109 treasurer of a committee to receive, but not to disburse, funds on

110     behalf of the committee.

111         [(14)] (15) "Referendum question" means a question to be voted  
112     upon at any election or referendum, including a proposed  
113     constitutional amendment.

114         [(15)] (16) "Lobbyist" means a lobbyist as defined in subsection (l) of  
115     section 1-91.

116         [(16)] (17) "Business with which he is associated" means any  
117     business in which the contributor is a director, officer, owner, limited  
118     or general partner or holder of stock constituting five per cent or more  
119     of the total outstanding stock of any class. Officer refers only to the  
120     president, executive or senior vice-president or treasurer of such  
121     business.

122         [(17)] (18) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure that is  
123     made without the consent, knowing participation, or consultation of, a  
124     candidate or agent of the candidate committee. "Independent  
125     expenditure" does not include an expenditure (A) if there is any  
126     coordination or direction with respect to the expenditure between the  
127     candidate or the treasurer, deputy treasurer or chairman of [his] the  
128     candidate committee and the person making the expenditure or (B) if,  
129     during the same election cycle, the individual making the expenditure  
130     serves or has served as the treasurer, deputy treasurer or chairman of  
131     the candidate committee.

132         [(18)] (19) "Federal account" means a depository account that is  
133     subject to the disclosure and contribution limits provided under the  
134     Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended from time to time.

135         [(19)] (20) "Public funds" means funds belonging to, or under the  
136     control of, the state or a political subdivision of the state.

137         Sec. 2. Subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 9-333i of the  
138     general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
139     thereof (*Effective January 1, 2003, and applicable to primaries and elections*

140 held on or after said date):

141 (g) (1) As used in this subsection, (A) "the lawful purposes of his  
 142 committee" means: (i) For a candidate committee or exploratory  
 143 committee, the promoting of the nomination or election of the  
 144 candidate who established the committee; (ii) for a political committee,  
 145 the promoting of the success or defeat of candidates for nomination  
 146 and election to public office or position subject to the requirements of  
 147 this chapter, or the success or defeat of referendum questions,  
 148 provided a political committee formed for a single referendum  
 149 question shall not promote the success or defeat of any candidate; [,  
 150 and provided further a political committee designated by the majority  
 151 of the members of a political party who are also members of the state  
 152 House of Representatives or the state Senate may expend funds to  
 153 defray costs of its members for conducting legislative or constituency-  
 154 related business which are not reimbursed or paid by the state;] and  
 155 (iii) for a party committee, the promoting of the party, the candidates  
 156 of the party and continuing operating costs of the party, provided a  
 157 legislative caucus committee may expend funds to defray costs of its  
 158 members for conducting legislative or constituency-related business  
 159 which are not reimbursed or paid by the state, and (B) "immediate  
 160 family" means a spouse or dependent child of a candidate who resides  
 161 in the candidate's household.

162 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 9-333k of the general statutes is  
 163 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
 164 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said*  
 165 *date*):

166 (a) The [chairman] chairperson of each party committee shall  
 167 designate a campaign treasurer and may designate a deputy campaign  
 168 treasurer, or in the case of a state central committee, not more than two  
 169 deputy campaign treasurers. The campaign treasurer and any deputy  
 170 campaign treasurers so designated shall sign a statement accepting the  
 171 designation, which shall be filed with the proper authority with the

172 statement of designation required under subdivision (1) of subsection  
 173 (a) of section 9-333d. No state central committee or town committee  
 174 shall establish a committee other than a single party committee for  
 175 purposes of this chapter. The members of the same political party in a  
 176 house of the General Assembly may establish only one legislative  
 177 caucus committee. A party committee or a political committee  
 178 organized for ongoing political activities shall form no other political  
 179 committees, except that two or more such committees may join to form  
 180 a political committee for the purpose of a single fund-raising event.

181 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 9-333n of the general statutes is  
 182 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
 183 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said*  
 184 *date*):

185 (a) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions in any  
 186 one calendar year in excess of five thousand dollars to the state central  
 187 committee of any party, or for the benefit of such committee pursuant  
 188 to its authorization or request; or one thousand dollars to a town  
 189 committee of any political party or a legislative caucus committee, or  
 190 for the benefit of such committee pursuant to its authorization or  
 191 request; or one thousand dollars to a political committee other than (1)  
 192 a political committee formed solely to aid or promote the success or  
 193 defeat of a referendum question, (2) an exploratory committee, (3) a  
 194 political committee established by an organization, or for the benefit of  
 195 such committee pursuant to its authorization or request or (4) a  
 196 political committee formed by a slate of candidates in a primary for the  
 197 position of delegate to the same convention. No individual who  
 198 intends to make a contribution to any clearly identifiable candidate's  
 199 campaign for nomination or election to any public office may do so  
 200 unless the contribution is made directly to the candidate's designated  
 201 candidate or exploratory committee or to a solicitor appointed by the  
 202 campaign treasurer of such committee. A political committee or party  
 203 committee may not accept a contribution from an individual which is  
 204 intended to be made for such purpose. This prohibition shall not apply

205 to a contribution made to benefit a slate of candidates whose  
 206 campaigns are funded solely by a party committee or political  
 207 committee formed for a single primary or election as permitted by  
 208 subsection (b) of section 9-333f.

209 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 9-333o of the general statutes is  
 210 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
 211 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said*  
 212 *date*):

213 (b) A business entity may make reasonable and necessary transfers  
 214 or disbursements to or for the benefit of a political committee  
 215 established by such business entity, for the administration of, or  
 216 solicitation of contributions to, such political committee. No business  
 217 entity shall establish more than one political committee. Nonmonetary  
 218 contributions by a business entity which are incidental in nature and  
 219 are directly attributable to the administration of such political  
 220 committee shall be exempt from the reporting requirements of this  
 221 chapter.

222 Sec. 6. Section 9-333t of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 223 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2003, and*  
 224 *applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said date*):

225 (a) [A] No political committee organized by two or more  
 226 individuals for ongoing political activities [may make unlimited  
 227 contributions to, or for the benefit of, a party committee; any national  
 228 committee of a political party; a candidate committee; or a committee  
 229 of a candidate for federal or out-of-state office] shall make a  
 230 contribution or contributions to, or for the benefit of, any candidate's  
 231 campaign for nomination at a primary or election to the office of (1)  
 232 Governor, in excess of five thousand dollars, (2) Lieutenant Governor,  
 233 Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State Comptroller or Attorney  
 234 General, in excess of three thousand dollars, (3) state senator, probate  
 235 judge or chief executive officer of a town, city or borough, in excess of  
 236 one thousand dollars, (4) state representative, in excess of five hundred



237 dollars, or (5) any other office of a municipality not included in  
 238 subdivision (3) of this subsection, in excess of two hundred fifty  
 239 dollars. The limits imposed by this subsection shall apply separately  
 240 to primaries and elections.

241 (b) No such political committee shall make a contribution or  
 242 contributions in excess of two thousand dollars to another political  
 243 committee in any calendar year except that a political committee  
 244 organized by a business entity may make unlimited contributions to,  
 245 or for the benefit of, another political committee organized by a  
 246 business entity. No political committee organized for ongoing political  
 247 activities shall make a contribution in excess of two hundred fifty  
 248 dollars to an exploratory committee. If such an ongoing committee is  
 249 established by an organization or a business entity, its contributions  
 250 shall be subject to the limits imposed by sections 9-333o to 9-333q,  
 251 inclusive.

252 (c) No political committee organized for ongoing political activities  
 253 shall make a contribution or contributions in any calendar year to (1) a  
 254 state central committee, in excess of five thousand dollars, (2) a town  
 255 committee, in excess of one thousand dollars, or (3) a legislative caucus  
 256 committee, in excess of two thousand dollars.

257 (d) A political committee organized for ongoing political activities  
 258 may make unlimited contributions to a national committee, a  
 259 committee of a candidate for federal or out-of-state office, and a  
 260 charitable organization which is a tax-exempt organization under  
 261 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as from time to time  
 262 amended, or make memorial contributions.

263 [(b)] (e) A political committee organized for ongoing political  
 264 activities may receive contributions from the federal account of a  
 265 national committee, [of a political party,] but may not receive  
 266 contributions from any other account of a national committee [of a  
 267 political party] or from a committee of a candidate for federal or out-  
 268 of-state office.

269 (f) No elected public official, agent of an elected public official or  
 270 individual acting in consultation with, or at the request or suggestion  
 271 of, any such public official or agent shall establish, direct or control  
 272 more than one political committee organized for ongoing political  
 273 activities.

274 Sec. 7. Section 9-333u of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 275 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2003, and*  
 276 *applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said date*):

277 [(a) A political committee established for a single primary or  
 278 election may make unlimited contributions to, or for the benefit of, a  
 279 party committee or a candidate committee, but no such]

280 (a) No political committee established for a single primary or  
 281 election shall make a contribution or contributions to, or for the benefit  
 282 of, any candidate's campaign for nomination at a primary or election to  
 283 the office of (1) Governor, in excess of five thousand dollars, (2)  
 284 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, State  
 285 Comptroller or Attorney General, in excess of three thousand dollars,  
 286 (3) state senator, probate judge or chief executive officer of a town, city  
 287 or borough, in excess of one thousand dollars, (4) state representative,  
 288 in excess of five hundred dollars, or (5) any other office of a  
 289 municipality not included in subdivision (3) of this subsection, in  
 290 excess of two hundred fifty dollars. The limits imposed by this  
 291 subsection shall apply separately to primaries and elections and shall  
 292 not apply to a political committee established for a slate of candidates  
 293 under subsection (b) of section 9-333f.

294 (b) No political committee established for a single primary or  
 295 election shall make contributions to a national committee, or a  
 296 committee of a candidate for federal or out-of-state office. If such a  
 297 political committee is established by an organization or a business  
 298 entity, its contributions shall also be subject to the limitations imposed  
 299 by sections 9-333o to 9-333q, inclusive. No political committee formed  
 300 for a single election or primary shall, with respect to such election or

301 primary make a contribution or contributions in excess of two  
 302 thousand dollars to another political committee, provided no such  
 303 political committee shall make a contribution in excess of two hundred  
 304 fifty dollars to an exploratory committee.

305 (c) No political committee established for a single primary or  
 306 election shall make a contribution or contributions to (1) a state central  
 307 committee, in excess of five thousand dollars, (2) a town committee, in  
 308 excess of one thousand dollars, or (3) a legislative caucus committee, in  
 309 excess of two thousand dollars.

310 ~~[(b)]~~ (d) A political committee established for a single primary or  
 311 election shall not receive contributions from a committee of a  
 312 candidate for federal or out-of-state office or from a national  
 313 committee.

314 (e) No elected public official, agent of an elected public official or  
 315 individual acting in consultation with, or at the request or suggestion  
 316 of, any such public official or agent shall establish, direct or control  
 317 more than one political committee established for a single primary or  
 318 election.

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| This act shall take effect as follows: |  |
| Section 1                              | <i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said date</i> |
| Sec. 2                                 | <i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said date</i> |
| Sec. 3                                 | <i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said date</i> |
| Sec. 4                                 | <i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said date</i> |
| Sec. 5                                 | <i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said date</i> |
| Sec. 6                                 | <i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said date</i> |
| Sec. 7                                 | <i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to primaries and elections held on or after said date</i> |

***Statement of Purpose:***

To (1) impose limits on the amount of campaign contributions by political committees, (2) limit the number of political committees that may be established, and (3) prohibit earmarked contributions to political committees and party committees.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*